



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
HEATHER TASKER, BRIDGET KELLY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

MANHATTAN TAX PREPARER LANDS IN PRISON
FOR FILING PHONY TAX RETURNS

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and EILEEN J. O'CONNOR, Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division, announced today that tax preparer THOMAS MARESE was sentenced by United States District Court Judge MICHAEL B. MUKASEY to one year and one day imprisonment for his role in filing false income tax returns.

MARESE ran a tax preparation business, Eagle Tax Preparation Service, located at 333 Pearl Street in Manhattan. On March 21, 2005, he pled guilty to preparing false tax returns for his clients. According to the criminal information to which MARESE pled, MARESE solicited clients by word of mouth and then prepared tax returns for them which claimed either fictitious or greatly exaggerated deductions for items such as medical expenses, gifts to charity and miscellaneous deductions. As a result, the clients either underpaid their tax or received inflated refunds.

The information further alleges that MARESE prepared 21 false returns claiming these types of false or inflated deductions for the 1999

and 2000 tax years. According to a plea agreement, MARESE's preparation of the 21 returns identified in the Information, and an additional 18 returns prepared by MARESE during the same time period, resulted in a total tax loss to the federal Government of \$160,463.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

Special Assistant United States Attorney ANDREW KAMEROS is in charge of the prosecution.

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